

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th May 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 13th May says that the military operations in the Transvaal have assumed the character of guerilla warfare, and no one knows when they will be brought to a termination. It is true that England has condescended to offer some favourable conditions to the Boers, but it seems that they will never accept the humiliating term requiring them to surrender their arms and independence, to preserve which they have sacrificed countless lives and money, and are still fighting with the English.

The Boer war.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN,
May 13th, 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that recently some constables severely belaboured a fisherman in the *hât* in Bangaon town in the Jessore district for refusing to sell fish to them at a price much lower than that prevailing in the market. The case is pending in the Court of the Subdivisional Officer of Bangaon.

A complaint against some constables in the Jessore district.

PRATIVASI,
May 6th, 1901.

3. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 7th May says that on the night of the 1st instant a fearful dacoity was committed in the house of one Vishnu Charan Misra in Barahabazar in the Manbhum district. The dacoits carried lathis, guns, and swords, and were dressed like respectable people. Iron safes were broken open, and ornaments and other valuables were carried off. The owner of the house and a servant were tied to a stake and burnt in different places of their bodies.

Dacoity in the Manbhum district.

MANBHUM,
May 7th, 1901.

Dacoity was unknown in the Manbhum district before. Last year a dacoity was committed in the house of one Durga Prasad Banerji in village Sukurhatu in this district, but the dacoits were not traced. Thefts are also becoming frequent. But the offenders are not being traced. It is this which is emboldening them.

4. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 8th May says that on the night of the 22nd April last a theft with house-breaking was committed in the house of one Purna Chandra Bhattacharyya in village Adhuna within the jurisdiction of the Gaurnadi thana in the Backergunge district. His brother and mother in trying to oppose the thieves were severely beaten and wounded by them. There were lights in the house, so that all the inmates could see the thieves and recognise them. But the Sub-Inspector of Police, who came to investigate the case, did not arrest them in spite of their having been identified as thieves.

A theft case hushed up in the Backergunge district.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
May 8th, 1901.

When the theft was being committed, the inmates of the house cried loudly for help, but none of the chaukidars and the panchayets of the village came to their succour.

As long as there was an outpost in the neighbouring village, Agarpur, the villages under its jurisdiction enjoyed peace, but after its abolition, the local *badmashes* have raised their heads.

5. A correspondent of the same paper says that a young unmarried girl of 18 or 19 years of age, daughter of one Rameswar Banerji, an inhabitant of village Rajbalihat in the Hooghly district, went to bathe in the Brahmaputra on the occasion of the last bathing festival, and was there kidnapped by *badmashes*. At present she is living in the house of a resident of Khanjapur village under the Gaurnadi thana in the Backergunge district. The man is trying forcibly to marry her against her will. He has even given out that if she refuses to marry him, he will ravish her. The girl is ill, and the doctor under whose treatment she has been placed knows everything about her. The matter is well-known in the surrounding villages. The poor girl is going to be outraged by a villain, and it behoves the Government to save her.

A kidnapped girl in the Backergunge district.

KASIPUR NIVASI.

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1901.

6. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th May has the following about the village chaukidar :—

The village chaukidar.

The chaukidar is the servant of the villagers, because he is paid by them to guard their life and property. But the chaukidar seldom goes on his nightly rounds through the village.

All that the superior police officers require of the chaukidars is their regular weekly attendance at thanas. But nothing is done to ascertain whether or no they properly discharge their duty of watch and ward in the village.

Every year large numbers of chaukidars are fined for non-attendance at thanas. But how many are punished for non-performance of their duty as the village watch? The chaukidars do not at all respect the villagers, because, although the villagers pay them, they pay them indirectly. It is the Magistrate from whom the chaukidars receive their quarterly salaries.

Chaukidars live upon their pay of Rs. 4 per month. Even this they get every three months. So that they make loans and have to pay interest on those loans. This difficulty might be avoided by authorising the panchayet to pay the salaries of the chaukidars. The panchayets, although they hold the proceeds of the chaukidari tax in their custody, have not the power to make such payment. If they are vested with that power, each chaukidar should be required to carry a memo-book with him, in which all fines imposed by the police officer in charge of the thana should be entered, so that the panchayet might deduct the amount of the fine at the time of paying his salary.

The reporting of deaths and births is one of the duties of the chaukidar. But it is the local police and not the panchayets who have the power of enquiring whether the chaukidars properly discharge this duty of theirs or not. This power should be vested in the panchayets and not in the police.

The power of the panchayets over the chaukidars should be greatly increased. If that is done, the chaukidars will not dare to neglect their duties, watched as they will be by the panchayets.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR
May 10th, 1901.

7. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 10th May says that the police

Complaint against certain police
constables in Calcutta.

constables stationed at the *mela* held in Upper Circular Road on the 12th April last greatly oppressed the poor native women who had brought there sundry articles for sale. The editor saw with his own eyes one *punkhawali* cursing four or five such constables, each of whom had forcibly taken from her a *punkha*. A *basketwali* was also similarly dealt with by them.

HITAVADI,
May 10th, 1901.

8. The *Hitaradi* [Calcutta] of the 10th May has the following :—

Alleged police oppression at
Patuakhali.

The Executive may leave no stone unturned to maintain the prestige of the police, and the High Court too may side with the Executive, yet guilt will out. The police are daily becoming more and more oppressive, owing to the defective arrangements for which the Executive authorities are responsible. Here is a harrowing tale of police oppression from Patuakhali in the Backergunge district. It appears that on the 30th April last year, one Ruggazi of Kochichira lodged an information with Kali Kumar Chatterjee, the head-constable of the Patuakhali police-station, that a theft had been committed in his house, and that he suspected one Asinuddi of the village of having committed the crime. The head-constable went to the house of Asinuddi in his absence, and Dhani Bibi, Asinuddi's wife, produced before the head-constable certain articles which were considered by that officer stolen property. Thereupon the head-constable took Dhani Bibi and also Asinuddi's sister Sadi, an unmarried girl of 13 or 14 years of age, to his boat, where Kamarazzama, the Sub-Inspector of the Patuakhali police-station, also joined him. These two police officers with the two women and one Meheruddi, a relative of Asinuddi, who also had been brought to the boat, then went from place to place for ten days under various pretexts. Asinuddi, who was said to have been absconding all the time, on coming to know that his wife and sister had been taken away and outraged by the police, at once surrendered himself. The same day, when the Court of the Subdivisional Officer of Patuakhali was about to rise, the two police officers produced before him the two women, whose depositions were recorded by him in the presence of Asinuddi. The evidence given by them went against Asinuddi and incriminated him in the theft case, but in the course

of their deposition, they gave a horrible account of their treatment by these two police officers. They said that those officers had detained them in their boats for ten days and had ravished them several times within that period. The injured women found no redress in the lower Courts. The case is now pending in the High Court, and its decision is awaited with anxiety.

9. The same paper, referring to the deputation of Mr. Bonham-Carter and Rai Madhu Sudan Chaudhuri Bahadur, to

The enquiry into the charges against the Noakhali police.

enquire into the charges against the Noakhali police, says that such an enquiry is urgently needed. But

Mr. Bonham-Carter's favouritism towards the police is well known. So the result of the enquiry can very well be anticipated. If the object of Government be to maintain the prestige of the police, then of course it is a different question altogether. Mr. Geidt, in his judgment, asked Government to entrust an able officer of the Detective Department with the charge of the enquiry. Why has not his recommendation been acted upon by Government?

HITAVADI,
May 10th, 1901.

10. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 10th May says that one afternoon an order was passed by the Magistrate of Midnapore

Renewal of arms licenses in Midnapore.

that all persons who had any sort of arms in their possession must present themselves at the town thana

on the next morning at 7 o'clock to renew their licenses. Even zamindars, talukdars, pleaders, and doctors were not exempted from the operation of this order, which distinctly laid down that no objection whatever would be entertained. So the court-yard of the thana was very much crowded next morning and presented a unique appearance. Graduates of the University and other respectable gentlemen were found side by side with common *chirmars* and others, all carrying their respective weapons. The Magistrate turned up at 10 o'clock instead of 7 A.M., and began to grant renewed licenses. But the work was not finished by 1-30 P.M., so the Magistrate ordered some of those present to come to his Court in the afternoon. The suffering and hardship of those who came to renew their licenses can better be imagined than described. Some of them had to come from a distance of 16 miles. The trouble does not end here. Not unoften the owners of guns are summoned several times.

SAMAY,
May 10th, 1901.

11. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 10th May says that it is useless to speak of police oppression, thefts, and dacoities.

Cause of the recrudescence of theft and dacoity.

Thefts and dacoities will never diminish in number, but will go on increasing, because the people are

finding it more and more difficult to earn a livelihood. The thief knows that if he eludes the policeman, the proceeds of the property stolen will enable him to find food for a few days, but if he is caught, so much the better for him, for he will get two meals a day in jail. What can the police do under such circumstances?

RANGALAYA,
May 10th, 1901.

12 Referring to the case in which the Sub-Inspector and the head-constable of the Patuakhali police-station were

Police inefficiency and oppression.

charged with committing rape on two women, the

Basumati [Calcutta] of the 11th May writes as follows:—

The people of this country are, as a rule, unwilling to prefer any complaint against the police, unless they are particularly oppressed and ill-treated. The inefficiency of the police in this country is so notoriously increasing every day, that it will be a long time before Government can convince the people that the police exist not for the persecution of the innocent or for causing the breach of peace, but for preserving it. Unless Government punish the police severely for every act of oppression committed by it, there is no chance of removing the impression regarding the inefficiency and highhandedness of the police, which has gained ground in the public mind.

BASUMATI,
May 11th, 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

13. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 3rd May has the following:—

Mr. Pennell.

Fearlessness and impartiality are very noble qualities in a Judicial officer, and impartial Judges are the pillars of an empire. Mr. Pennell, in his judgment in the Chapra case,

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 3rd, 1901.

found fault with two young European officers of immature judgment and with a native officer devoid of all sense of propriety. The Government Resolution, too, on the subject, openly rebuked the European officers, and thereby showed that Government wanted a fair administration of justice in every case. The conduct of Mr. Pennell as well as that of the Government redounded to the credit of British rule, although it would have been better if Mr. Pennell's judgment in the Chapra case had not contained poetry and certain remarks that were quite uncalled for. Had it been the judgment of a just, cool-headed, and fearless Judge like Sir Barnes Peacock, it would have been free from all offences against judicial gravity, while it would have given no opportunity even to the rebuked persons to consider the Judge self-conceited and anxious to take credit for his honesty. Many thought that Mr. Pennell's judgment would have been the better for a few lines struck off.

The Chapra case must still be in the memory of our readers. It will be remembered how both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor-General censured the local officials for procuring the unjust punishment of the constable.

We Hindus are not, as a rule, vindictive. We do not want every offender to be hanged for his offence. We think that for high officials to be blamed as were the Chapra officials for their conduct in a public Resolution in the official *Gazette* was punishment enough. That Resolution, together with the substance of Mr. Pennell's judgment, will always prove a great help to an impartial administration of justice in this country. And it can be confidently asserted that no young civilian will ever again be caught tripping in the discharge of his duties in Chapra. The manner in which Mr. Pennell decided the case earned him the good opinion of both Englishmen and Indians, officials and non-officials.

Shortly after the passing of his judgment in the Chapra case, Mr. Pennell was transferred to Noakhali, and he has been under the belief that his transfer was due to his finding fault with high officials in the Chapra case. But Government denied this, and said that Mr. Pennell's transfer to Noakhali had been decided upon before either the Lieutenant-Governor or the Chief Secretary knew anything about his decision in the Chapra case. There is no ground for disbelieving what such high officials said. Even if the Chapra judgment had reached the Secretariat two days before the order of Mr. Pennell's transfer was published, anyone who has any knowledge of the practice and procedure followed in the Secretariat offices will see that in two days' time it was not possible for the judgment to reach the Lieutenant-Governor or his Chief Secretary in Darjeeling, after going through the various stages of office routine. It was not indeed right for Mr. Pennell to disbelieve others without sufficient cause, and to look upon his transfer in the light of a punishment. Mr. Bolton has always been known as a just, wise, and intelligent man. If he had received the judgment before passing the order for transfer, he would have certainly, at least for the sake of appearances, postponed the transfer for a few days. Moreover, is there any ground for supposing that Government transfers to Noakhali or Chittagung only those with whom it is displeased? Mr. Halliday, afterwards Sir Frederick Halliday and Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was at one time stationed at Noakhali, and a man like Mr. Cotton at one time served in Chittagong. Would there have been any harm in Mr. Pennell's supposing that as the work in Chapra was very heavy and was getting into arrear at his hands, he was transferred to a smaller district like Noakhali?

The truth is that Mr. Pennell had somehow got the notion into his head that Government did not want a fair and impartial administration of justice, and was offended if fault was found with high European officials; and he so worked himself up under that notion that he could not help introducing in the Noakhali judgment a great mass of irrelevant matter. He attacked the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Secretaries to Government, some merchants, and even the High Court Judges; in fact, anybody and everybody with whom he has come into contact or whose name he has heard during his fifteen years' service in India. We were under the impression that only ignorant people, disinclined to scan their own faults and foibles, were apt to think that people

were acting maliciously towards them. But now we see that even a learned European Judge can be weak enough to think that the sole business of other people is to think of him and how to injure him.

It is said that by his fifteen years' service Mr. Pennell has made money. He also knows it very well that if he can somehow gain a wide notoriety, he will be able to throw up his service and gain a good practice as a barrister. He has himself given hints of this in his judgment. It was, therefore, not very difficult for him to make a display of his courage by abusing high officials. He knew pretty well that nothing more serious could happen to him than loss of service. All these considerations probably led him to express himself in the reckless way he has done.

No credit is due to Mr. Pennell in the Noakhali case. If the case is proved, all the credit will be due to Mr. Ezechiel. It was by his efforts that the police was prevented from hushing it up.

The letter which Mr. Pennell wrote to the Chief Secretary, Mr. Buckland, regarding Mr. Justice Rampini's refusal to give him leave, was not couched in polite language. Mr. Buckland's reply to this letter and the Government Resolution on the Chapra case led Mr. Pennell to suspect that Government did not want him to do justice in the Noakhali case, and under that groundless suspicion, he incorporated everything he found in the world in his judgment. The Criminal Procedure Code clearly lays down what a judgment should contain. But the chief feature of the Noakhali judgment is Mr. Pennell's personal history, which was given probably because he knew that abuse of anybody in a judgment could not bring him under the charge of defamation. The personal history, however, is silent about the illegal order passed by him in a certain case in Mymensingh and the caning incident in Burma.

Mr. Pennell is not a man devoid of good qualities. But his fault is that he is too full of self-conceit. A Judge like him should not certainly have introduced personal matters into a judgment. The sending of Mr. Reily to *hajet* also seemed to us extremely wrong. If found guilty, there would be no objection to send him to jail for four years, but why so much hurry to send him to *hajet*? There are numberless instances on record of bail being allowed to persons charged with non-bailable offences. And a provision to that effect has been made in the Criminal Procedure Code itself. As there was no likelihood that Mr. Reily would abscond, he ought to have been released on bail.

Mr. Pennell would not have been so prone to find fault with others, if he had cultivated the habit of looking a little into himself and finding out his own shortcomings. It is not also right that one should transgress the bounds of courtesy, when pointing out the faults of superiors. The intemperate language used by Mr. Pennell in his judgment indicates a state of mind which could not have enabled him to arrive at a right decision in a murder case. At the time of trying a murder case, a Judge cannot be too calm and collected, and must completely banish from his mind all thought about personal matters, which may serve to distract his attention. It was not right for Mr. Pennell to lose himself in long personal digressions, and thus forget all about the case for long intervals when writing the judgment.

We cannot approve of the manner in which the newspapers in general are discussing the Noakhali case, although we yield to none in our desire to see a calm, fair, and faultless administration of justice. We do not like a Judge to be partial either to natives or to Europeans, because partiality in a Judge can never do any good. A journalist, on being asked by us as to the cause of the sensation which has been created by the press over the matter, replied that they were doing so much of the matter, because Mr. Pennell was prepared to punish a European—a thing not very common in this country. But cannot a Judge punish a European, if found really guilty, without levelling abuse at the Viceroy or the Lieutenant-Governor? Cannot one do what one thinks right calmly and without giving others any cause of complaint against oneself? It is nothing but losing one's self-respect to suppose that Government thinks one capable of doing injustice, if one is not allowed a prayed-for leave or transfer. It was not also right for Mr. Pennell to suppose that Government did not want justice, and that it was he alone who cared for and had come to establish justice in the county.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1901.

14. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 7th May writes as follows:—

Mr. Pennell. Bengalis are glad to see Mr. Pennell, because they believe him to be an upright Judge, who never forgets his duty, and because he has shown them in actual practice that he is not a Judicial officer who departs from the path of duty under private influence. An impression has gained ground in the minds of the people of this country that while European Judges and Magistrates, as a rule, treat European offenders leniently, inflict upon them disproportionately light punishments, and not unoften allow them to escape with impunity. Mr. Pennell is a European Judge who makes no distinction between black and white, and holds the scales of justice evenly between natives and Europeans. It is this impression which made the people of Noakhali shout for joy when they saw Mr. Pennell again in their midst.

We Hindus are content with a very little. No matter how we are harassed and persecuted, we feel grateful to the man who gives us the barest protection. When by their acts European boy-Magistrates and Police Superintendents wound our feelings, all we do is to consider them mistaken; we merely think them ignorant of the methods on which our Sovereign wishes to rule this empire, and ignorant of the high and broad principles on which the British Empire in India is based. The wrong-doings of an English officer of immature judgment make us blame that particular officer and find fault with his intelligence and judgment, but never make us displeased with our British Sovereign. We know that our Sovereign loves justice, and that, under his rule, injustice committed in one place has its remedy in another place. In a word, we have been so loyal to our Sovereign, because we have faith in the uprightness of European Judges. Those who by their conduct shake our confidence in European Judges are not only our enemies, but enemies of the British Government as well. Mr. Pennell is a firm friend of British rule, and it is because there are still many men like Mr. Pennell that the Indians are still firmly loyal to that rule. Mr. Pennell exercises greater power over the people of India than could ever be exercised by ten thousand armed soldiers. Soldiers, rifles, and cannon are capable of exciting fear, but Mr. Pennell excites respect and devotion. In fact, English rule would not have been so firmly established in India to-day but for the existence of many Englishmen like Mr. Pennell. The Government should therefore take steps to bring more Englishmen like Mr. Pennell to this country, and should consider carefully before it passes final orders in Mr. Pennell's case.

This Pennell affair indicates the necessity of depriving the Executive of all power over the Judiciary.

15. Referring to the Ballygunge wetting case, the *Sri Sri Vishnu-Priya-or Annada Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes as follows:—

The husband of the lady wrote to Mr. James, the then Commissioner of Police, that "the man ought surely to be punished, so that he and his craft may know that the *memsahib* is still to be respected." Mr. James at once wrote to the District Magistrate of Alipore, as the safety of the British administration in India was at stake, pointing out that the boy might be charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. The police had already brought an action against the boy before Maulvi Seraj-ul Huq. But is it possible for a native to try such a serious case? So the District Magistrate transferred the case to the file of Mr. Panton, the Assistant Magistrate, who sentenced the boy to rigorous imprisonment for ten days.

The boy knew very well that his offence was not a wilful one. He was watering the street and did not notice the *memsahib*, who was driving past. Yet for this offence the Magistrate sentenced him to ten days' rigorous imprisonment. The public have had proof of the enormous influence of the police in the Chapra case. They are disgusted with the Noakhali police affairs. They have also heard of the case in which a boy belonging to a respectable family was subjected to great indignities through the dominating influence of the Burdwan police. They have also seen what prompt action was taken by the District Magistrate of Alipore on receipt of Mr. James' letter. The public have a right to ask why the District Magistrate, without giving any notice to the accused and without showing any cause under section

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-OR
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 8th, 1901.

428 of the Criminal Procedure Code, transferred the case from the file of Maulvi Seraj-ul Huq to that of Mr. Panton?

16. Referring to the case in which a Uriya employé of the Calcutta Municipality was sentenced to undergo ten days' rigorous imprisonment for wetting an English lady while watering a street in Ballygunge, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1901.

The High Court was moved in favour of the boy. But it is a matter of great regret that Mr. Justice Amir Ali cut many jokes with the vakil, who made the motion at the expense of "nervous Babus." Perhaps Mr. Justice Pratt laughed in his sleeves when he found a Bengali Judge thus sneering at Bengali Babus. Anyhow, a rule was issued calling upon the lower Court to show cause why the punishment should not be reduced.

There is one thing noteworthy in connection with this case. The lady's husband wrote to Mr. James requesting him to see that the Uriya boy was punished so that he and others like him might learn that "the *memsahib* is still to be respected." Mr. James sent this note to the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, with the result that the case was transferred from the file of Maulvi Seraj-ul Huq to that of Mr. Panton. For how could an English lady's case be tried by a native Magistrate? How long is India to suffer from such judicial vagaries?

17. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th May has the following:—

HITAVADI,
May 10th, 1901.

Complaint against the Collector of Calcutta.

When Babu Chandra Narayan Sing was appointed Collector of Calcutta, it was expected that, being an able and experienced Deputy Magistrate, he would discharge his duties satisfactorily. But unfortunately that expectation has been disappointed. During the incumbency of Rai Durgagati Banerjee Bahadur, the office work was usually finished by 4-30 P.M. and the assistants had no grievances whatsoever. But since the appointment of Babu Chandra Narayan as Collector, they have had to work very hard from 11 A.M. till evening, and yet the office-work is not despatched with so much promptitude as before. This causes great public inconvenience. The assistants and particularly the office peons may be saved a good deal of hardship and inconvenience if the Collector reduces the time he now spends on his lunch.

18. The same paper has the following:—

HITAVADI.

The case of a municipal servant wetting an English lady.

The High Court has reduced the sentence of ten days' rigorous imprisonment passed on the municipal servant who was charged with wetting an English lady to a fine of Rs. 5. We fail to see the propriety of Mr. Justice Amir Ali's reference to the "nervous Bengali Babu" in connection with this case. The poor fellow would have had to undergo rigorous imprisonment for ten days but for the High Court. Is not a fine of Rs. 5 sufficient to meet the requirements of the case? Can anyone explain why the unofficial letter addressed to Mr. James by the husband of the lady was sent to the District Magistrate of Alipore? The case was first made over to Maulvi Seraj ul Huq, but why did the District Magistrate, without showing any cause and without the knowledge of the accused, transfer the case to the file of a European Joint Magistrate? Such conduct on the part of the District Magistrate naturally creates grave suspicions in the public mind as to whether the accused can expect an impartial administration of justice. Will the authorities remove those suspicions from the public mind by calling for an explanation from Mr. Lyall and Mr. James?

19. The same paper has the following:—

HITAVADI.

The Pennell affair.

The independent opinion of Mr. Geidt as regards Osman Ali and Kailas exactly coincides with that of Mr. Pennell. Mr. Pennell saw that the extraordinary influence exercised by the police in Noakhali was prejudicial to an impartial administration of justice, and he therefore showed an unusual amount of ardour in order to uphold the dignity of British rule and maintain the prestige of justice and equity.

In his eagerness to screen Sadak Ali and Osman Ali, Mr. Reilly got into trouble himself. He made absurd and contradictory statements, and failed to act according to the orders of Mr. Ezechiel. It is true that the High Court

has acquitted Mr. Reily, but it did not venture to declare him innocent. The Hon'ble Judges said that they acquitted Mr. Reily because Mr. Pennell had failed to maintain judicial coolness in trying the case. This requires no comment.

It is evident that Mr. Pennell's vehemence is not an outcome of malice. The public sing his praise, though they do not approve of the strong language used by him in his petition to the Secretary of State. In his first petition to the Secretary of State, it may be remembered, certain disrespectful terms were used in reference to the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, and so it was not forwarded to him. Mr. Pennell is wanting in courtesy. Even a highway robber in England, revolver in hand, and ready to shoot you down if you stir an inch, will use the word "please" when demanding your watch and chain. Is it not, then, a matter of great regret that Mr. Pennell born in that country should fail to show courtesy to Government? Mr. Pennell's allegations against the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Chief Justice were discourteous. He is a good writer and is able to express his sentiments without having recourse to bitter and pungent language. He may express the same thing in ten different ways. It is desirable that, at the present moment, he should be particularly careful as to how he expresses himself, for civility will now carry more weight than blunt and plain-speaking. It is therefore satisfactory to find that he has couched his second petition in respectful terms. In his instruction to the Government Pleader of Noakhali regarding the retrial of Sadak Ali, there is nothing which savours of malice. He says "I never bore any grudge against Reily. Ask this question in the course of his cross-examination. I have in possession many letters of Reily about this."

Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that the people should pay homage to Mr. Pennell. The real significance of Mr. Pennell's reception is that the public have no faith either in the Court or in the officers who are trying to screen the police.

BANGAVASI,
May 11th, 1901.

20. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May, referring to the case of the Municipal servant who has been fined Rs. 5 for wetting an English lady, writes as follows:—

The case of the Municipal servant charged with wetting an English lady.

The Municipality will now have to do one thing without delay. It will have to lay down a rule fixing the exact distance at which a Municipal servant will have to stop watering the street whenever he may see European gentlemen or ladies enjoying their ride or drive. There should also be a distinct ruling as to whether or not an ordinary native woman or a "nervous Bengali Babu," as Mr. Justice Amir Ali puts it, would be entitled to bring such a suit. Will this curious precedent be applicable to any other towns?

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
May 16th, 1901.

21. Referring to the acquittal of Mr. Whyte by the Calcutta High Court in the Koderma riot case, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th May writes as follows:—

The result of the Koderma riot case.

We had anticipated that such, indeed, would be the result. It is not, therefore necessary to say anything as to whether or not justice has been done in the case. But what is noteworthy in this connection is that of the new special jurors with whose assistance the learned Sessions Judge tried the accused and discharged him after giving him a "white washing." Eight were Europeans and one a Parsee.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1901.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon and higher education in India.

Government has disallowed the proposal to raise the Kushtea School to the status of a second grade college in spite of the decision of the Syndicate in its favour. By so doing, Government has laid itself open to the charge of interference in matters which do not strictly fall within its province. It has done a great wrong by not upholding the decision of the Syndicate. If the authority of the Syndicate is not acknowledged even in small matters like these, what is the use of keeping up that institution at all? Government may as well convert the University into one of its own departments. The spread of higher education in India is in every way desirable. But Government is

trying to lay the axe at the root of higher education; it has abandoned its former educational policy, and is now trying to arrest the progress of the country. When Lord Curzon first came to India as Viceroy, the country was passing through a famine, and the sufferings of the Indians were aggravated by plague and heavy taxation. The advent of the new Viceroy produced high hopes in the minds of the people. His Excellency's profound learning and scholarship and the reputation which it had procured for him led them to expect that under his rule there would be an extension of higher education in India. But the new scheme of vernacular education in Bengal, the withdrawal from the graduates of the Calcutta University of their privilege of electing Fellows and certain other measures adopted by his administration have disappointed all those expectations. Recently His Excellency said in Aligarh that no Viceroy or Lieutenant-Governor would in future care to bring education within narrower limits in India. Every word spoken by Lord Curzon possesses the charm of eloquence. But where do we find his words acted upon? His sweet eloquence can indeed create phantom worlds in the air, but where is the man who can be satisfied with such unsubstantial creations?

23. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th May has the following:—

PRATIVASI,
May 13th, 1901.

The result of the late B. A. Calcutta University have been very unsatisfactory Examination.

The results of the B. A. Examination of the for the last few years. This may lead some people to think that Government intends to discourage higher education. For our part, we are not in favour of making high education a farce. If Government is really opposed to the spread of such education, it would be well if no tempting prospects were held out to those who were prosecuting their studies with a view to qualify themselves for University degrees. There would be no need in that case of passing a large number of candidates in the Entrance Examination, and thereby making it possible for them to prosecute their further studies at the sacrifice of health and money, and of disappointing them in the end in the matter of obtaining a degree.

This examination farce is doing injury not only to the students but to society also, and it is a regret that the authorities of the University are totally indifferent to the evil. We once heard of a proposal to make the examinations easier, but instead of that, there is a tendency to make them more stiff. Certainly it is the examiners who are responsible for this. For want of time or any other cause, they set questions which can never test the proficiency of the candidates in the subjects in which they are examined. It is also a matter of disgrace that the question papers, even those set at the highest examination, are disfigured by typographical and other errors. Moreover, the method of teaching in vogue in our colleges fails to arouse the interest or attract the attention of the students. Then there are the annotations, keys, and guides which do more harm than good, for the students neglect the lectures of their professors for the best part of the year, and at the eleventh hour consult these guides and annotations.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

24. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 10th May says that the streets

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 10th, 1901.

Watering of the streets in the suburban wards of the Calcutta Municipality.

in the suburban wards of the Calcutta Municipality are not properly watered. The Municipality engages contractors, the contractors engage *bhisti sirdars*, and the *bhisti sirdars* engage *bhistis* for the purpose of watering these streets. A large portion of the money spent for this purpose is appropriated by the contractors and *bhisti sirdars*. Thus many thousands of rupees are yearly spent almost for nothing.

(h)—General.

25. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th May referring to the

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 8th, 1901.

The proposed dismemberment of the Bankura district.

proposed dismemberment of the Bankura district writes as follows:—

Great anxiety prevails in the district. The thought that the town will be denuded of its residents, that trade will be brought to a standstill, and that the dwelling-houses and valuable property will

be sold at nominal prices, has cast a gloom over the country. The people used at first to live in huts, but gradually as trade increased and the town rose in importance, they built houses at considerable cost, and these they will have to leave now. They must settle anew in some other place. A ruler so just and sympathetic as Sir John Woodburn is, is very rare, and it is hoped that he will not abolish the district without consulting public opinion. Government appoints a commission even when any of the thanas or chowkis of any district are proposed to be transferred to another. But now that the question of abolishing a district has to be decided, surely a commission, consisting of a large number of officials, ought to be appointed. During the administration of Sir Ashley Eden a commission was appointed to consider the question of abolishing certain thanas. We pray Government to consider the following letters which were taken into consideration by that Commission:—

Letter to the Government of India, Home Department, No 1275, dated 31st May 1878.

Letters Nos. 2719, 2720 and 2721, dated 9th November, to the Commissioners of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and to the Registrar of the High Court.

Letter to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, Nos. 2400—2404, dated 5th September 1877.

Letter, dated 12th March 1873, from Mr. C. T. Buckland, President of the Boundary Commission.

Letter from the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, No. 220, dated 10th April 1874.

When Sir John Woodburn came to Bankura in November last, he expressed himself highly satisfied with the local schools, the charitable dispensary, and the Lady Dufferin Hospital. If the district be abolished those buildings will not be of any use. Sir William Hunter in his "Statistical Account of Bengal" wrote as follows in reference to the town of Bankura. "The station is considered very healthy." On the occasion of his visit to Bankura in November last, Sir John Woodburn was very much pleased with the District and Municipal Boards. He said: "I think that I appreciate more a visit to a comparatively small district like Bankura than visit to great and populous districts like Burdwan or Patna, because I am reminded of my former services in a place like this. It was in a place like Bankura I began my Indian life. * * * I assure you of my good wishes for your district."

If the Govindpur subdivision be incorporated with the Burdwan district it will do more harm than good to the local zamindars and raiyats. It is because the Encumbered Estates Act is in force in Govindpur that the impoverished and indebted zamindars of that place are still in possession of property. So long as Khatra and Raipur were within the jurisdiction of Purulia, the zamindars lived in happiness. But as soon as those two places were incorporated with Bankura, the estates of the zamindars were bought by foreign millionaires. After Raipur was incorporated with Bankura, the zamindars of Phulkusma, Shyamsunderpur, and Raipur were sold. The separation of Govindpur from Manbhum is not at all desirable. It has been proposed to establish a new coal district in Asensol, but the coal merchants and coal mine-owners of Bankura are opposed to this proposal.

The same paper in a separate article gives the old history of Bankura.

26. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that Mr. Anderson, the Accountant-

Mr. Anderson's treatment of a Bengali Assistant.

General of Bengal, called one of his assistants, a respectable Bengali gentleman, *bander-ki-baccha* (son of a monkey), and the latter at once resigned his service. But resignation is not enough; the wrong done to him must be redressed. He is a graduate of the Calcutta University. If Mr. Anderson has lost his senses so far that he forgets he is a gentleman and an English official, Government should no longer retain him in its service.

27. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 8th May says that it is curious

Mr. Reilly and Mr. Pennell.

that the suspension of Mr. Reilly was not, while that of Mr. Pennell was, announced in the *Calcutta Gazette*. This difference which Government has made between Messrs. Reilly

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANNADA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
May 8th, 1901.

PRATINIDHI,
May 8th, 1901.

and Pennell has cast a stain on the reputation it enjoys of being a justice-loving Government. Mr. Pennell has been punished for upholding the cause of truth and justice, while Mr. Reily has been rewarded for trying to disregard them.

28. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th May has the following:—

The proposed dismemberment of the Bankura district.

Everybody knows that Government takes great interest in all measures calculated to promote the comfort and convenience of the European merchants. Some of them have petitioned the Local Government, saying that as the coal-producing places in Bengal are situate in different districts, they have to suffer a good deal of inconvenience. So they ask Government to bring all such places under the jurisdiction of one district, and Government, too, considers their prayer reasonable. According to Government, however, it would be more convenient to establish a separate district with its head-quarters at Asensol, and incorporate Raniganj, Govindpur, Raghunathpur, and Gangajalghati with the proposed district, while transferring Sonamukhi, Indas, Katulpur, and Vishnupur to the Burdwan district. If, as proposed, a new district be established at Asensol, the Bankura district will be abolished. The consequences of such abolition will be as follows:—

(1) Many wild and lawless people like the Sonthals, Bheels, Kols, &c., live in this and the neighbouring districts. Even now, whenever they get the slightest opportunity, they commit theft, dacoity, and various other crimes. These crimes will increase if the district be abolished.

(2) There are at present one District and Sessions Judge, one Subordinate Judge, seven Munsifs, one Magistrate, and five Deputy Magistrates in this district. If the district be dismembered, the troubles and difficulties of intending litigants will know no bounds. We fail to see why Government has brought forward this proposal to abolish the Bankura district, a proposal which, though it may promote the convenience of a handful of European merchants, cannot but prove extremely inconvenient to thousands of its poor native subjects.

(3) Government will have to build new offices at Asensol at considerable expense.

(4) The Bengal Tenancy Act is in force in this district, whereas it is not in force in the Manbhum district. So, if the four places mentioned above, which are now included within the Bankura district, be transferred to the Manbhum district, the residents of those places will be deprived of the privileges which they now enjoy under that Act.

(5) If the Kshetra and Onda thanas and Bankura *sadar* were transferred to the Manbhum district, as proposed by Government, the transfer would be highly inconvenient to the people of those places, for the distance between Purulia and Onda is 80 miles and that between Purulia and Bankura *sadar* is 60 miles. Moreover, the country lying between Purulia, on the one hand, and Onda and Bankura *sadar* on the other, is covered with dense jungle.

(6) There may be coal mines in many parts of this district which it is not improbable will be discovered in the distant future by some enterprising European merchants. Should that be the case, Government will find it necessary to again deal with the question of district jurisdiction.

(7) When Sir George Campbell was Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, there was a proposal to establish a district at Raghunathpur. In order to give effect to that proposal, Katulpur was transferred to the jurisdiction of Jahana-bad, in the Hooghly district. But as the change was not one for the better, it was soon abandoned.

The same paper publishes a letter on the same subject signed by Tripurari De, Atul Krishna Mitra, Ganga Vishnu Pal, Ram Chandra Chandra, Jnanendra Mohan Banerjee, Okshoy Kumar Roy, and Sarada Prosad Sen, of which the following points deserve notice:—

(1) The proposed dismemberment of the Bankura district, if carried out, will cause great inconvenience to all poor litigants, who will be unable to go to different districts to have their cases tried. There will also be an increase of theft, dacoity, and other crimes.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
May 8th, 1901.

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(2) Is Government to look to the interests of a few European coal merchants alone, and will it prove unkind to its poor and helpless native subjects?

(3) If Government really means to promote the convenience of the European coal merchants, that purpose would be quite served by constituting a new subdivision with Govindpur, Raniganj, and Asensol, and placing it under Bankura.

(4) It is only a temporary convenience of the coal merchants which Government is so anxious to promote, for they will leave the scene of their present operations if any coal mines are discovered in any other part of the country, or if the existing mines are exhausted.

BANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1901.

29. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th May says that Mr. B. De should have been appointed to the Commissionership of Excise instead of Mr. Earle, who is his junior. Mr. De has been serving the Government for 25 years with remarkable ability, and has won a good name for himself. He thoroughly deserves promotion to a Commissionership.

HITAVADI,
May 10th, 1901.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th May says that gazetted holidays are much prized by assistants in Government offices, where the work is usually so very heavy as to keep them employed from 10-30 in the morning to 6 or 7 in the evening. The assistants, attached to the Chief Secretary's side of the Bengal Secretariat, have many grievances. They are treated by the Registrar like so many school-boys, and are required to produce medical certificates, countersigned by Presidency Surgeons, if they apply for casual leave even for a day. They are required to *salaam* the Registrar when leaving office every day. Gazetted holidays are granted in the Secretariat, subject to special arrangements, made for urgent work; and the last Saturday of the month is allowed as a holiday, but although the work on Saturday the 27th April last was up to hand, the Registrar made all the assistants attend office on that day. He went even further and made the Hindu and Christian assistants attend on Monday and Tuesday, which were gazetted holidays on account of the *Mohurram*.

BANGABHUMI,
May 14th, 1901.

31. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 14th May says that the beat of the only postman attached to the Jhanpa post office in the Jessore district extends over sixty-eight villages covering an area of 15 or 16 miles. It is simply impossible for one man regularly to deliver letters over this large area. Not unoften the postman leaves all the letters for a village with somebody in that village; sometimes he delivers the letters intended for two or three or more villages at a *hât* to anyone he comes across. As a consequence, letters are frequently lost and seldom received in proper time. But the postman cannot be blamed for all this, because he is required to perform a task that is impossible for one man to perform. To remedy this evil, a post office should be established at the neighbouring village of Matsia, with jurisdiction over twenty-five or thirty surrounding villages. At least an additional postman should be appointed to the Jhanpa post office.

BANGABHUMI,

32. The same paper says that Alampur is a populous and prosperous village within the Kushtea subdivision of the Nadia district. But there is no arrangement for the daily delivery of letters in the village. The villagers petitioned the Government to establish a post office there, but no action has yet been taken on it. A post office, if established, is sure to be self-supporting.

A post office wanted in a village in the Nadia district.

III.—LEGISLATION.

KHODEMUL ISLAM,
May 1901.

33. A correspondent of the *Khodemul Islam* [Calcutta] for May says that Act XII of 1880 (for the appointment of persons to the office of kazi) is working very unsatisfactorily, and steps should be taken to impress upon the Musalmans of Bengal the importance of that Act. By this Act the Government has given the kazis full power to decide marriage and divorce cases and to perform other social and religious ceremonies of the Musalmans. But the writer is sorry to say that the Act

provides for no appeal against their decisions. It is true that the office of the Inspector-General of Registration has a committee called Permanent Committee for superintending the work of the kazi registrars. But its members are very irregular in their attendance, and do their work very perfunctorily. It should be borne in mind that if the kazi registrars wrongly decide those cases, such wrong decisions must injuriously affect Musalman society. To the Musalmans, therefore, the Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi Act are more important than any other British law. One of the objects of those Acts is that the kazi registrars should be enabled to help the ignorant Musalmans in their temporal and spiritual concerns, and make them acquainted with the benefits of education, the education, that is, which will enable them to regain the position once held by the Musalmans. It can therefore be said that an advantage like this has never been conferred by the Government on any other people living under the British rule. But the writer is sorry to say that only for one defect in these Acts, the kazi registrars are totally unable to carry out their intention. That defect is that the Acts in question do not bind the Musalmans to have all their social and religious questions settled by those officers. It is therefore indispensable that some steps should be taken by Government to popularise the objects of these Acts. If this entail any expenditure, the Government can meet it by levying fees on the registration of marriages and divorces.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

34. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that the signs of an approaching famine are visible in the Backergunge and Faridpur districts. People are making loans in order to supply themselves with necessities. There is also great scarcity of water. Government should be on the alert to prevent death from starvation.

PRATIVASI,
May 6th, 1901.

35. The *Charumihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th May says that certain parts of the Mymensingh district are threatened with famine. Many people in the villages of Sakrail, Tenati, and Krishnagar, within the jurisdiction of the Phulpur thana, are daily living on a single meal for want of food. Scarcity of food is also keenly felt in the Jafarsai and Pukharia parganas, and in the villages of Suknagari and Pubergram within the jurisdiction of the Madarganj thana. An inhabitant of this district, after starving for two days with family, went to a money-lender for a loan, who agreed to give it on receipt of a pledge. He went home, brought an ornament, and offered it to the money-lender. But he took it as a compensation for a previous loan, and was unwilling to advance any fresh loan unless he received a fresh pledge. The man came back disappointed, and would have committed suicide, but for the assistance of some rich men. The balance of the famine funds should be spent in relieving the distress of the people.

CHARUMIHIR,
May 7th, 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

36. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that Pennell worship is being carried to an excess by the Bengalis. Sober and thoughtful men should not thus allow themselves to be carried away by a sensation.

PRATIVASI,
May 6th, 1901.

37. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 8th May says that the Noakhali Town Hall, although built with money raised by public subscription, has become, as it were, the private property of a few Government officers.

PRATINIDHI,
May 8th, 1901.

Recently, a Committee, composed of the District Magistrate, Mr. Cargill; Dr. Rai Upendra Nath Sen, the Deputy Collector; Babu Harish Chandra Mitra; Khan Bahadur Bajlar Rahaman, and the Secretary, Babu Govinda Chandra Chattopadhyaya, refused the Noakhali public the use of the Town Hall on the occasion of the tea-party given in honour of Mr. Pennell. Govinda Babu was the only man who stood for the public. The others being nothing but sycophants seeking favours from the Government, opposed Govinda Babu. The conduct of Khan Bahadur Bajlar Rahaman was amusing. He went to Mr. Pennell to express his sorrow for the refusal of the Town Hall. But Mr. Pennell plainly

told him that if he was really sorry for it, he should resign his membership of the Town Hall Committee, and then come to see him.

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1901.

38. One Babu Manoranjan Guha writes as follows in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th May:—

Popular distrust of the Government in Hazaribagh.

For some months past, plague has been raging in several villages in the Ganwa thana of the Hazaribagh district, and when lately I visited some of those villages on business, I was asked by the people of every village at which I arrived some questions, of which the following two were the principal:—(1) Babu, will the *sahib log* (Europeans) introduce poison into every village? And (2) Babu, can you tell us why our rulers are destroying their subjects by poison? Instead of replying to their questions, I asked them what reasons they could assign for the rulers thus destroying their subjects. They said that they had heard of two reasons, one being that the population of England having grown to an excess, the Government is killing the natives in order to make room for English settlers, and intends settling all land on the latter; and the other, that the last census having shown an enormous increase in the population of this country, Government is thinning the population by administering medicines to the people on the plea of plague and by mixing poison with the water of wells from which they draw their supply of drinking water, with the object of averting famines, which are the necessary consequence of increase of population. On hearing this, I did my best to remove their wrong notions, and seemed to succeed to a certain extent, but it was still clear to me that I had not succeeded in completely dispelling the fear and suspicion they entertained in the recesses of their hearts.

At night, when I sat alone in my lodgings, a cloud hung over my mind. I felt extremely sorry for the distrust which had sprung in the people's mind towards their rulers. Under Hindu rule, the people of India used to look upon their rulers as their parents, but now that very people are readily believing the story that their present rulers do not hesitate, from paltry selfish motives, to secretly kill their subjects by the administration of poison! What a change! To any well-wisher of British rule, this distrust on the part of the subject-people is not a less powerful cause of alarm than the outbreak of plague itself.

Speaking for the poor people of Bihar, Chota Nagpur, and the Sonthal Parganas, with which portions of the country alone I am well acquainted, they know only from hearsay that they live under British rule and have no direct acquaintance with their rulers. It is true *thuggee* and dacoity have been suppressed in the country through the efforts of British rulers and the peace, which the people now enjoy, is a result of British rule, but the days when *thuggee* and dacoity were rampant in the country have been now so long in the womb of the dead past that the present generation have hardly any knowledge of the agency which put them down. These people have not, therefore, seen anything with their own eyes which bespeaks a desire on the part of the rulers to do them good. The laws and regulations which the Government has framed for their good have their object completely frustrated by the tyranny of zamindars and *mahajans*. Neither do the people get the help of the police in securing them peace. If any theft is committed or anybody is killed by a wild beast or a snake information is not given to the thana, because the people know that the police would only come to harass and oppress the informant and ruin him by their exactions. They never go to court of their own accord, because they have no money to prosecute, and know it for a certainty that they would never succeed in getting anybody to depose against the police, the zamindar, or the *mahajan*. But they are often dragged into court against their will to suffer oppression and harassment. In these and other ways, the people never get an opportunity of viewing their rulers in their aspect of protectors but always see them in their fierce aspect. And as a natural consequence they do not find it difficult to distrust their rulers to any extent.

The people are also under the impression that the English law provides no punishment for Europeans who kill natives. They ask, how many Europeans have been hanged for killing natives? Referring to the release of Mr. Whyte of the Koderma affair on bail, they are pointedly asking:—"What, do you say after this that the law is the same both for Europeans and natives?" When the masses believe that the Government looks upon the Europeans as its own

flesh and blood, can they, illiterate and ignorant as they are, have the least difficulty in believing that the Government can easily feed and fatten the Europeans on their blood and make room in the country for European settlers by killing them, natives, with poison?

Whatever be the cause of the distrust, there is no denying that the people have been imbued with a deep distrust of their rulers. It is true this distrust cannot lead to a bloody affair like the Sepoy Mutiny, nay, these people will never have the courage to do so much as even speak a word against their rulers. But, for the sake of its reputation and for the sake of its moral responsibilities, Government should not pass unnoticed the distrust and the deep-drawn sighs of its countless subjects.

The Government alone can find out the means whereby they can remove the distrust. We think that steps should be taken to bring the people into direct contact with the Government. We do not mean by this that the rights of zamindars should be annihilated, and that the people should be made the immediate raiyats of Government. Private raiyats are happier than the raiyats in Government khas mahals, upon whom the most inhuman oppressions are committed by the khas mahal officers.

One excellent means of bringing the subject people into direct contact with their rulers would be the establishment of agricultural banks. The raiyats now borrow from *mahajars* or zamindars and have to pay exorbitant rates of interest. Not unoften the zamindar or the *mahajan* advances one *maund* of paddy, writes it down as two *maunds* in his account book and charges interest at the rate of 50 per cent. upon two *maunds*. Instances of such exactions are not at all rare. The establishment of agricultural banks by the Government would not only save the raiyats from oppression by usurers but along with this will fetch a good income to the State, and serve to establish good feelings between the rulers and the ruled.

The opium industry of Bihar has, it is true, brought the cultivators of Bihar to a certain extent into direct acquaintance with their rulers, but the rate at which the farmers are paid for growing opium is so meagre that they have come to look upon their rulers only as a set of very close-fisted traders.

Government should do more to protect its subjects from the oppressions of zamindars, money-lenders, and the police than it does at present. The subject people should be enabled to feel that they have a protector in the person of their Sovereign.

The Commissioners, Magistrates, and other high officials, when they go out on tour, occupy themselves wholly with inspecting the courts and offices. It would go a great way to impart confidence to the people and to explain to them the relation which the British Government bears to them, if these officials, on the occasion of their tours, instead of spending their whole time on such inspections gave, from time to time, an audience to the people in general and enquired after their well-being. This would help to convince them that the Magistrates are not only the dispensers of punishments but are also their protectors. The adoption of measures like these will soon remove from their minds such suspicions as are now entertained by the villagers in Hazaribagh.

39. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 10th May says that the *Pioneer* is not far wrong in supposing that the joy of the Bengalis at Mr. Pennell's conduct is very like the joy of school-boys when they see their master beaten by some naughty school-fellow. A down-trodden people as the Bengalis are, they have neither the courage, nor are they allowed by the law, to speak out their minds. They, therefore, like boys become very glad when they find one European blaming and finding fault with another.

But one thing must be remembered. The English rulers are not behaving well towards their Indian subjects. They opened their eyes by giving them education, and yet they want to carry on the administration with a high-hand. It is the general impression now, that the law courts award one punishment to a native and another and a different one to a European for the very same offence, and not unoften completely acquit the latter. Notwithstanding such difference of actual treatment by the law courts, big English statesmen are often heard to say that both Natives and Europeans are equal

Mr. Pennell and the Native Press.

RANGALAYA,
May 10th, 1901.

in the eye of the law. The professions of Englishmen are the professions of gods, but their actions are like those of ordinary men.

The natives of India were quite content with their position as subjects and would never have quarrelled with their rulers for not treating them as the equals of Europeans. But it is Lord Macaulay and Lord Dalhousie who, by introducing high English education into the country, taught the natives to demand equal rights and privileges, and thereby sowed the seeds of mischief. European statesmen have now come to see their mistake, and are endeavouring to retrace their steps. Lord Curzon is one of this party, and he has girt up his loins to revolutionise the educational system of India.

What is past is past. Henceforward the people of India should remember that they are only a subject people, and should conduct themselves as such. They must not object to anything their rulers do, and should know that they exist in this world only to live as subjects.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 13th, 1901.

40 The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 13th May has the following in English:

Mr. Pennell and the Native Press.

From certain signs, it appears that at least in a certain portion of the Anglo-Indian world there has been surprise at the attitude of the native press towards Mr. Pennell. The native press may, in its turn, be excused if it shows surprise at the attitude shown towards an English Judge, who stands undaunted in the discharge of his duties by the frowns of the powers that be and upholds the cause of justice even at the risk of dismissal from the Convenanted Service.

The natives of India have never been ungrateful towards their benefactors. They find out very easily who has sympathy for them and who have not. The hand which is held out to feed them, they will never repel ungratefully. But how is it that Mr. Pennell has been able to appeal to warmest feelings of sympathy and gratitude in the Indian mind? The cause is not far to seek. Both at Chapra and at Noakhali, he has stood by the weak, the oppressed, the voiceless. In both these places he has tried to do justice according to his light. In both these places he has acted in accordance with the traditions of an English Judge, dealing out even-handed justice without being biased in the least by the considerations of colour and race. But by an irony of fate in both these places he has succeeded, in the most unenviable manner, in drawing upon him the wrath of the Olympian gods. The natives of India see in him a martyr. They think that, had Mr. Pennell shown the same degree of courage and zeal in upholding the cause of justice in England, his devotion to duty would have immortalised his name. In any other country his name would have been recorded in history. It is because he showed very little respect for the cherished feelings of a powerful clique that he has met with such scant courtesy from the higher authorities. The natives of India have come to see from experience that an official of Mr. Pennell's standing, championing their cause is a sight which is very rarely to be met with, especially in these days. There was a time when a Burke or a Sheridan might have befriended their cause in England. In England there are still some highminded Englishmen who have not forgotten the glorious traditions of their race. But here, in the very plains of India, an English District Judge, a member of the Convenanted Service, standing by them and incurring some risk thereby, is a rare sight indeed.

In their zeal and gratitude they fail to see that Mr. Pennell might have done them greater good had he been a little less hasty. Both at Chapra and at Noakhali he might have managed things as he desired had he cared to act with greater discretion. That disrespect towards higher authorities, of which the Anglo-Indians have been complaining so much and over which the natives of India remain silent, Mr. Pennell might have steered clear of, had he cared to do so from the very beginning, but here it must be admitted that after the Chapra case his transfer to Noakhali, a district never famous as a health resort, he naturally regarded as a sort of punishment inflicted on him. His zealous mind met with a shock. From that time he did not care any more to keep any control over his temper. As regards the nature of the sidelight incidentally thrown by the Noakhali case, we have nothing to say at present. Facts will always speak for themselves. Mr. Pennell might have been disrespectful, he might have written a unique judgment, he might have included in it various

extraneous matters, which might have been well left out, but was he not trying to do justice in an impartial way without caring for any loss or risk? If he has done so, why should not the Indians show their gratitude to him?

In India we have no Party Government. We have nothing of the kind which may be honoured by the name of His Majesty's Opposition as our rulers have in their own country in the Liberals and Tories. Here in India also there are two parties—they are the people and the officials. The people look upon the High Court, and the officials upon the Executive head of the Government, as their respective guardians. But in the Pennell case, the people's guardian has forgotten all its past traditions and joined hands with its rival, the Executive head. This unholy combination has caused great consternation throughout the length and breadth of the country. To speak the truth, had not the Chief Justice of the High Court showed unusual anxiety for the release on bail of Mr. Reilly by sending that private telegram, we have no doubt the native press would have supported the High Court in asserting its own right. But we know the High Court has made a mess of the whole thing, and the present uncompromising attitude of the native Press is to be accounted for by these bunglings of the High Court.

URIYA PAPERS.

41. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 1st May is sorry to find that recurring famines have prejudicially affected the population of India to a large extent, as without them that population should have been much larger than what appears from the last census returns. The writer therefore exhorts the authorities to take note of the fact and to take such steps as may prevent mortality, due to that cause.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 1st, 1901.

42. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 1st May regrets to state that heavy showers of hail-stones, accompanied by strong wind, has done great injury to the mango crop, which, in itself, was a short one.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
May 1st, 1901.

43. *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 4th May regrets to state that the students of schools and colleges in Orissa are much addicted to smoking and betel-chewing, and that dealers in those commodities are constantly seen to visit those institutions at regular intervals. According to the writer it is a modern vice, and should be dealt with severely, for the students of olden times never indulged in those stimulants.

UTKALDIPIKA,
May 4th, 1901.

44. Referring to the celebration of the *Muharrum* festival in the Cuttack town, the same paper states that a large number of Hindus took a prominent part in its proceedings, which means that the Hindus and the Muhammaddans of the town are well disposed towards one another.

UTKALDIPIKA.

45. The same paper states that there is a great want of water for irrigation purposes in Dhenkanal and other Tributary States in Orissa. A large quantity of water, which is wasted every year, may be utilised for irrigation purposes by the construction of petty embankments at a small cost, while the repair of old wells and tanks is sure to benefit the people in various ways. The writer requests the Rajas and their managers to pay particular attention to this branch of their administration, and to spend a particular amount steadily every year, if the state of their funds is such as not to admit of any costly project being sanctioned.

UTKALDIPIKA.

46. The same paper is gratified to learn that the income of the post offices in India is increasing every year, and suggests that the money-order fees in the case of remittances, amounting to rupees five or less, may be reduced from two annas to one anna, while the postage of a cover weighing twelve annas only may be charged at the rate of six pies only. These small reforms, the writer adds, will add to the income of the post office in the long run.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,
May 7th, 1901.

47. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 7th May has the following in English:—

The sanitary condition of Sylhet town.

The present sanitary condition of this town is as bad as possible. But the Municipality seems to have been peacefully sleeping over the matter. We propose to deal with this subject in detail in our next issue. In the present issue we shall confine ourselves only to a few prominent aspects of the matter with a view to invite the attention of the dormant Municipality to the wretched condition of the town. It goes without saying that the want of good drinking water is one of the most fruitful causes of cholera, malarial fever, and other diseases. The town has been, for some time past, suffering much from the scarcity of good drinking water. The Municipality has, of late, sunk a certain number of wells, but they fall far short of supplying the want. Most of the inhabitants of the town resort to shockingly dirty tanks or rather pools for bathing, washing, drinking and culinary purposes.

They cannot help it; they must use such reservoirs of filthy water for their present existence, although by the bye, the use of such water leads to their non-existence in no distant future. The next thing which forces itself upon our attention and which gives a rude shock to our æsthetic faculty is the rank growth of jungle on the sides of public roads and the precincts of homesteads.

In short the conservancy department is in a deplorable condition. Although in some of the wards the keeping of latrines has been made compulsory, people generally ease themselves wherever they find it convenient with impunity, in consequence of which very stinking smell shocks our olfactory nerves while walking through any road or path. The few latrines that exist are not regularly cleared. Nightsoil of the jail is carried through the public road during the day time which scatters its pestilential smell far and wide.

PARIDARSAK.

48. The same paper says that Madna, in the Sylhet district, is an important steamer station, which a large number of passengers have to pass through. It is, in fact, the door to the adjoining populous villages. But passengers have to suffer much hardship owing to the want of a proper waiting-room in that place. No bazar is near at hand, nor are boats and other conveyances available at all hours. There is an inspection bungalow, but the public are not allowed to use it. The Local Board is requested to construct a public waiting-room at the place. If that were done there would be no objection to its levying a fee from such passengers as might choose to stop in the building.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 18th May, 1901.